

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102; claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103; and claims 5-7 are objected to. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended and claim 5 is canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5-7 are objected to only as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable.

I. Claim for Priority

A Claim for Priority was made in this application, based on the filing of a certified copy of the priority application in the parent PCT application. The certified copy of the priority application appears in the USPTO Image File Wrapper for this application. However, Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy of the priority application. The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy in the next Office Action.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections, in the interest of advancing prosecution claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and claim 5 is canceled. Claim 6 is amended to depend from amended claim 1. Accordingly, the rejections are overcome and must be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA

Date: June 1, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--